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SAN BERNARDINO

1853

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 7, 2007

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Officials declare mountain communities "open for business"

With the scenic, tree-lined banks of Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains serving as a backdrop, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sen. Bob Dutton, San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, and California Travel and Tourism Director Caroline Beteta declared the region open for business.

Gov. Schwarzenegger praised the work of firefighters who saved much of the resort communities in Lake Arrowhead and helped keep fires away from other natural gems in the local mountains.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt announced that the County of San Bernardino is moving quickly to bring tourism marketing support and economic aid to communities that were damaged by the October fires.

"We want Southern California residents to understand that our mountain communities are still here and open for business," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt at a press conference with the Governor, Senator Dutton and officials from mountain communities today.

Prior to the press conference, the group toured Lake Arrowhead Village with leaders from the mountain chambers of commerce, focusing their morning on economic recovery and the critical tourism industry.

"It's important to make it clear to people who come to the mountains to hike, ski, spend a day on the water and spend time with their families in one of the most renowned settings in California that everything they love about these mountains is still here, waiting for their next visit," said Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger.